

Preface

Human activities have caused climate change, resulting in more frequent extreme weather events and endangering the lives of all creatures on Earth.

In the past twenty years, leaders of contracting parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have gathered at the UN Climate Change Conference to discuss strategies for tackling the climate crisis. From the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 to the Paris Agreement in 2015, the collective objective of countries has been to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide. However, for many countries, reducing emissions implies limitations on economic development. Over the years, there has been no binding mechanism, and many high-carbon-emitting countries have contempted agreements, pursuing their own economic interests without taking concrete actions to protect our common home.

In 2015, Pope Francis issued the encyclical letter "Laudato Si" as an appeal to people on Earth regarding the deteriorating global environment. He hoped for unity, dialogue, and cooperation in caring for our common home. He emphasized the importance of recognizing the vulnerabilities of the poor and the fragility of the Earth. He also encouraged us to rediscover our relationship with creation and God.

Eight years later, on October 4th of this year, the Pope released a new apostolic exhortation titled "Laudate Deum," which complements the 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si" and calls for individual and collective ecological conversion as well as implement proactive measures to address the ecological crisis. It specifically mentions the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in November and urges world leaders to achieve decisive outcomes that accelerate the transition to clean energy. It also calls for sustainable commitments that can be effectively monitored.

Our ecological environment is on the brink of collapse, and we appeal to all fellow Catholics to participate in this joint signature campaign and take action to care for our common home.

Petition Campaign by Hong Kong Catholic Faithful: Taking Action to Care for Our Common Home

To World Leaders:

The Paris Agreement, established eight years ago, called on both developed and developing countries to make commitments to reduce emissions and strive to limit the global temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees Celsius. In May of this year, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization warned that we would not be able to maintain the 1.5-degree threshold this year or in the following year. If this continues in the long term, it will bring about irreversible and uncontrollable ecological crises.

Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation "Laudate Deum," calls on humanity to take collective responsibility in the face of climate change and hopes that the contracting parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will not abandon their

aspirations. As we approach the 28th UN Climate Change Conference from 30 November to 12 December 2023, we hope that meaningful discussions will take place to establish a monitorable and binding form of energy transition among all countries. This should be done with the welfare of the common good and future generations in mind, while also considering intergenerational equity and justice.

Hong Kong Catholic Faithful

Online petition: <https://forms.gle/wP51Qta3bzoVrzii6>

